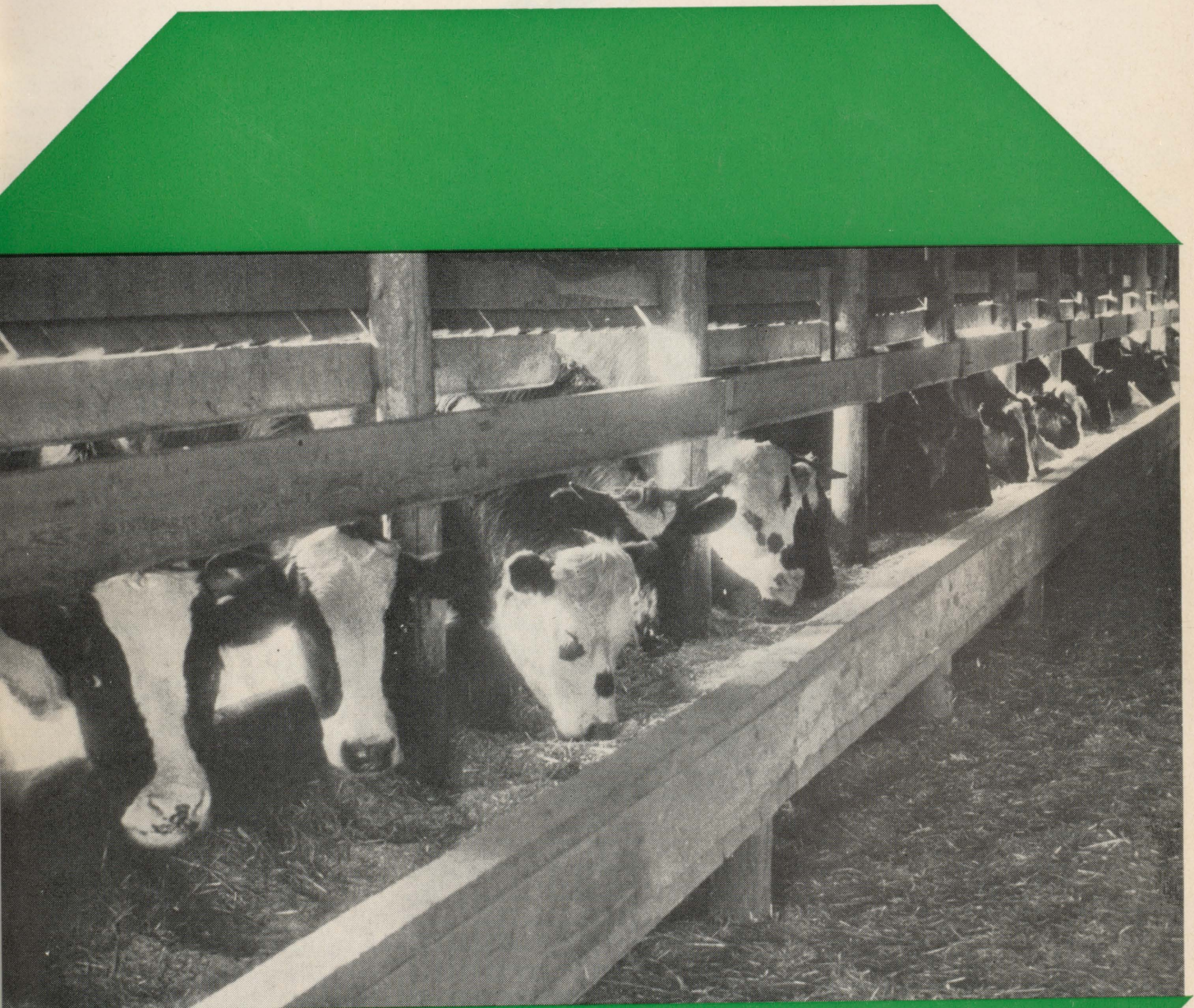


The macdonald JOURNAL

FEBRUARY 1971

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FEBRUARY 1971

Macdonald Journal
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Journal Jotting

We are celebrating a birth in
the Centre for Continuing Education
and prouder parents you couldn't
find anywhere. It's the birth of a
new book "The Macdonald Agro-
Guide" and the Editor, Galen
Driver tells you in this issue about
its contents, its purpose and its
many and diversified uses. It's his
baby and, therefore, only fitting
that he describe "Agro-Guide" to
you. I would like, however, to tell
you briefly about some of the
'labour pains' encountered since
the seed for publishing this book
was planted several years ago.

Back in the early 50s, the College
put out a farm handbook which
many of you probably still have
on your book shelves. Time and
change have made many sections
of this handbook outdated but the
staff still felt that the basic idea of
having a compact, authoritative
guide for agriculture was a sound

one — indeed, a necessity for
eastern Canadian agriculture. That's
when the labour pains began.

First came the meetings, the
setting up of committees, the
choosing of writers for each section,
selecting the material that should
be included and deciding the form
in which it would be finally
presented. It is difficult enough for
one writer to write one book but
when you have approximately 30
busy writers (to mention only one
of their duties) to put on a critical
path for one book it can make for
some man-sized headaches. And
there were. But finally, as with a
giant jigsaw, the pieces began to
fit into place and the manuscripts
started to filter into the Centre
for Continuing Education, which
suddenly became a make-shift but
extremely efficient editorial office
with many willing hands pitching in
to edit, type, stylize and translate
(Agro-Guide is being published
in both French and English editions).

As copy was ready it was rushed
to the designer and on to the
printers. Then back came the
galleys and page proofs and again
we had instant proofreaders and
instant experts on the vague
peculiarities of the English language
as it is written. Mention you had a
few minutes to spare or dare to
walk idly passed the office door
and you suddenly found yourself
with a galley in one hand and a
blue pencil in the other. Result
of all these labour pains — one
extremely valuable guide to the
complicated and exacting science
of agriculture.

It was a long and arduous task to
produce this book but its production
has proven once again that many
people with diverse interests can
work together toward a common
goal. But then that's the typical
spirit behind Clan Macdonald,
isn't it? Happy reading!

Hazel M. Clarke.

Editorial

Summer '71 and Youth

"No jobs, no school, nothing to do," claimed the hitchhiker after I had picked him up on the Trans Canada Highway as it runs through the Macdonald Campus. "Maybe I'll just keep going, hope to hit Calgary at Stampede time. Could get a job in B.C. and maybe earn enough to come back home by Swing-Air."

Conversations like this prompted the Federal government to open up armories across Canada last year to provide overnight havens for the thousands of young people that were on the move. A few others spent part of the summer in make work projects at various armed forces bases. The Federal program was a stop-gap measure that managed to defuse what could have become a hostile group of transient young people.

Now, as the winds whistle around the Peace Tower and summer vacations are only dreams, the Federal government are taking steps to make sure that the dreams don't turn into nightmares. A youth camp which could turn into a National Drop-in Centre has been suggested for outside Ottawa. For those who want to travel, a system of free bus trips across the country has also been suggested. In both cases, the ideas sound extremely paternalistic and are guaranteed to give the individuals the feeling that they have nothing to contribute to society. A youth camp would seem to appeal to most young people about as much as a trip to Siberia in February. The free bus rides would take all the gamble out of getting from one city to the next on a thumb. It would even take the fun out of spending a rainy day in the security of a highway overpass.

Fortunately the idea men in Ottawa have come up with some workable alternatives — an increased program to find summer jobs for students and a chance for young people to participate in the clean up of our environment. Both these ideas should make summer more bearable for several thousand provided they have the

chance to plant trees, develop parks and improve beaches.

The program to encourage young people to do something productive could be taken one step further. This step would involve many farmers and rural people at a time when, on most farms, there is more to do than there is time for. Each young person employed on a farm would be paid by the Federal government. The farmer would be responsible for providing room and board. A system of counselling could be incorporated to make sure that the farmer was not being unrealistic in his work demands or that the student wasn't expecting to stay in bed until 10:00 a.m. It should also be a good educational experience for the young person involved, helping in the production of food, learning the problems of being a farmer and participating in a community that has marked differences from urban centres. A day tossing bales, picking tobacco or spraying apples couldn't help but make young people appreciate the efforts some people must exert to make a living. A program of make work for young people on Canada's farms could also be an education for rural adults.

With unemployment at a high level, with more young people competing for fewer jobs and in an age where everything has to be "meaningful and relevant", why not give young people a taste of the work that is involved in producing three meals a day.

Mark W. Waldron

Dr. W. H. Brittain

Dr. W. H. Brittain who was for 21 years the Dean of McGill's Faculty of Agriculture and Vice-Principal of Macdonald College, died January 31, 1971 at the age of 81.

Dr. Brittain was born in Fredericton, N.B. and received his early education in Woodstock and St. John, N.B. He was a member of the first graduating class of the Faculty of Agriculture at Macdonald College in 1911, being the Gold Medallist of his class. After serving with distinction as Provincial Entomologist in British Columbia and in Nova Scotia, he completed his Ph.D. at Cornell in 1921, and joined the staff of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College as Professor of Entomology. In 1926, he became Professor of Entomology of McGill's Faculty of Agriculture at Macdonald and became Dean in 1934, serving as Dean of Agriculture and Vice-Principal of Macdonald College until his retirement in 1955, when he was honored with an LL.D. by McGill as part of Macdonald's semi-centennial celebrations.

As Vice-Principal of Macdonald College Dr. Brittain provided the leadership which gave McGill's Faculty of Agriculture the pre-eminent place it has for imaginative innovation in the professional degrees in Agriculture, and for research in the basic agricultural and biological sciences. He was a friend of students, and is recognized still by generations of students as the man that made Macdonald College what it has become today.

He is survived by his wife, May (née Cruickshank), one son, Bruce (Ottawa) and three daughters, Mrs. M. Bulman (Peggy), Mrs. J. B. Poole (Barbara), and Mrs. B. A. Bohan (Bonney).

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It is a time of revolution in beef breeding. Traditional theories and methods are being challenged. Crossbreeding is being widely accepted by the commercial beef producer. The use of artificial breeding is on the increase. The large dairy breeds are being involved in the production of beef as never before on this continent. The traditional beef breeds are making substantial changes in type. Priorities in selection and methods of measuring traits are being shifted and amended. But the most sensational development in the changing beef-breeding picture is the sudden influx of "new breeds".

From Europe, we have "new breeds" that are old established breeds making their presence felt for the first time on this continent. From the United States, newly established breeds, most of them combining the traits of several of the old breeds. Breeds too, from Australia, Asia and even new breeds developed in our own country.

Most of the "new breeds" are large breeds with the potential for high rate of gain and the production of carcasses with a high lean content. As breeds, they are often better in some characteristics than our traditional breeds, but in other characteristics they are often not as good. For cross-breeding they offer some exciting possibilities.

Beef breeders are suddenly faced with a host of "new breeds" from which they can select with little or no good information on which to make decisions. The following table and article were prepared to help solve that problem. They were recently published in

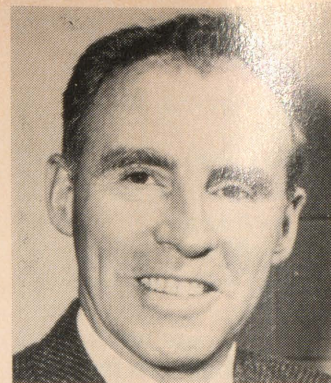
a somewhat different form in "Better Beef Business" and prepared by Dr. Lavon J. Sumption and four other top animal scientists on this content. This is a guide based on the present knowledge of the breeds. As explained by Dr. Sumption it is subject to change, perhaps extensive change as knowledge of some breeds increases and as breeds make improvements through testing and selection. It should be remembered that there are differences — in many cases wide differences — in all traits within each breed. The rating of the traits in this article and table is intended with present knowledge to reflect the average of the breed in each case.

Prof. Peter Hamilton,
Dept. of Animal Science.

Ingredients for Cattle Breeding — A Look at North America's Seedstock

The decision to conduct a systematic crossbreeding program to increase beef output per cow is only the beginning of a series of important decisions. The most critical part of the plan is choosing appropriate parent breeds a) to fit the cattleman's objectives and environment; and b) to use the chosen breeds in a designed breeding system that will maximize the expression of their desirable traits and minimize the influence of their undesirable traits.

The breed comparison chart is presented as a service to cattlemen who are choosing breeds for crossbreeding programs. It represents the combined appraisals of five animal scientists. We recognize fully the difficulty of making accurate comparisons of all



these breeds for so many economic traits at this time. Nevertheless we feel cattlemen are entitled to the most considered judgment that can be made in 1970 since decisions on breed choices for 1971 breeding programs must be made.

The table represents what is now known about rankings of a large number of breeds. In due time it can be updated with critical data from the breed comparisons in studies in Canada (e.g., the Canada Department of Agriculture Research Stations at Brandon, Manitoba; Manyberries, Lacombe, and Lethbridge, Alberta) and the United States (e.g., USDA Meat Animal Research Center, Clay Center, Nebraska).

Furthermore, eventually it will be possible to expand these comparisons to include the performance of various crossbred combinations. The present table not only provides guidelines for commercial cattlemen in building a crossbreeding program but may also serve as a challenge to seedstock breeders regarding the traits that need improvement in the breeds.

The table includes more breeds than most cattlemen would normally consider as a part of their decision making area. However, in building a productive, crossbred cow and a superior performing slaughter animal it is appropriate to consider all possible germ plasm resources. Major mistakes are costly because it takes so long to replace a cow herd by its own reproduction. It is far better to consider all alternatives at the beginning.

Some producers may be concerned

about the confusion of "too many breeds" to choose from. For a business, however, in which many producers have thousands or millions of dollars invested it should be comforting that there is a wide range of breeds for the divergent climatic and economic environments that typify North America.

Several established and also several newly developed breeds were not listed because comparative data were not available. It should be clear that cattlemen will not engage in a lot of selection between breeds because most crossbreeding programs will include only three to four breeds.

The ranks of breeds for each economic trait are based upon their relative performance as straightbreds in regions of their most frequent use. This table presupposes that the reader will recognize that certain breeds with entirely different climatic adaptation may have similar rankings but for their separate special areas (for example, Scotch Highland versus Braford).

In using this table cattlemen should understand that the greatest amount of heterosis is expressed for survival and maternal traits, the least for carcass traits, with only moderate heterosis for growth rate and feed efficiency. Therefore, a moderately fertile breed with moderate milk production when crossed with a breed of low fertility potential but high milking ability can yield crossbred cows with high fertility and milk production. Growth and carcass traits of crossbreds, however, more nearly reflect the average performance of the parent breeds.

The final section of the chart indicates recommended ways of using each breed in crossbreeding systems. A majority of breeds are recommended for use in both rotational crossbreeding and as a maternal component toward specific three-breed crossing. Two breeds should be chosen for use as sires or dams of crossbred cows depending on a) which breed has the higher ranking for maternal traits and b) relative availability.

Only a few breeds are rated as terminal cross sires for specific three-breed crossing. These are the breeds which have the genetic capacity for exceptional post-weaning muscle growth rate. The next few years are likely to see some unique approaches to utilizing breeds attempting to maximize their contribution to the efficiency of total crossbred performance.

Undoubtedly there will be criticism of our relative ranking of some breeds for one or more economic traits. Some breeders will cite cases where certain key herds greatly exceed breed averages for important traits. Crossbreeding plans, however, must be based on breed averages rather than the exceptional herd averages because commercial cattlemen may not be able to secure this exceptional material.

It is clear that these breed rankings may change as the results of breed improvement programs begin to have an impact on breed averages. This article and table are only the beginning. The objective is to provide reliable information as soon as it is available to aid in calm and timely decision making and to update the information when it is justified.

COMPARISON OF ECONOMIC TRAITS IN 29 BREEDS OF CATTLE
As appraised by five leading animal scientists and published in "Better Beef Business"

	Cow Traits			Calf Traits			Carcass			Bull Traits		Head		Breed's Place in Crossbreeding									
	Age at Puberty	Conception Rate	Gestation Period	Milking Ability	Mothering Ability	Mature Size	Adaptation to Beef Management	Efficiency under Minimal Management	Hardiness	Pre-Weaning Growth	Post-Weaning Growth	Optimum Slaughter Weight-Pounds	Cutability	Marbling	Tenderness	Fertility	Freedom from Genital Effects	Calving Ease (Sire Effect)	Horned	Polled	Maternal	Terminal	Rotational
Angus	1	2	S	3	2	A	2	2	3	4	3	950	4	1	2	2	2	2	X	X	X		X
Ayrshire	2	3	A	1	3	A	4	5	3	3	2	900	2	3	3	2	2	2	X		X		X
Beefmaster	3	2	A	3	1	A	1	1	1	2	2	1150	2	3	3	3	2	1	X		X		X
Braford	3	2	A	3	1	A	1	1	1	2	2	1150	2	3	3	3	4	2	X		X		X
Brahman	5	5	L	3	2	A	2	3	2	3	4	1150	2	4	5	4	4	1		X		X	
Brangus	3	2	A	3	1	A	1	1	1	2	3	1050	2	2	3	3	3	2	X		X		X
Brown Swiss	3	4	A	1	2	L	3	4	3	1	1	1200	2	3	2	2	2	3	X				X
Charbray	4	4	L	3	3	L	4	4	2	2	2	1250	1	4	3	3	2	4	X				X
Charolais	4	4	L	3	4	L	4	4	4	1	1	1050	3	2	2	2	1	5	X				X
Devon	3	2	A	2	2	A	2	4	3	4	3	950	3	2	2	2	2	2		X			X
Galloway	2	2	S	3	2	S	4	4	2	3	4	900	2	2	1	2	2	1	X				X
Guernsey	2	3	S	1	2	L	2	4	3	2	2	1150	2	3	2	2	2	3	X				X
Hays Converter	2	2	A	2	2	L	2	4	2	4	2	1050	3	3	2	2	2	2	X				X
Hereford	4	2	A	5	3	A	2	2	2	4	2	1200	2	3	2	2	2	3	X				X
Holstein	3	2	A	1	3	L	4	5	3	1	1	850	2	3	1	1	3	1	X				X
Jersey	1	1	S	1	3	S	3	4	4	4	5	1200	1	2	2	3	2	4	X				X
Limousin	3	3	L	3	3	L	2	3	3	2	1	1250	2	3	2	3	2	5	X				X
Maine-Anjou	3	4	L	2	3	A	3	4	3	1	3	1000	5	2	2	3	1	2	X				X
Milking Shorthorn	2	3	A	2	3	A	2	2	2	3	3	1050	3	2	2	2	2	3	X				X
Murray Gray	2	3	A	3	3	A	2	2	2	2	2	1050	3	3	2	3	2	2	X				X
Polled Hereford	4	2	A	5	3	A	2	2	2	4	4	950	5	3	2	2	2	2	X				X
Polled Shorthorn	2	4	A	3	3	A	2	3	3	3	4	950	4	2	2	2	2	2	X				X
Red Angus	1	2	S	3	2	A	2	2	3	3	3	950	4	1	2	3	4	2	X				X
Red Poll	2	2	S	3	3	S	2	3	2	2	2	1150	2	3	4	4	3	3	X				X
Santa Gertrudis	4	4	L	4	2	S	2	2	1	4	4	900	3	2	2	2	1	2	X				X
Scotch Highland	2	3	L	1	3	L	2	2	3	1	1	1250	2	3	2	2	1	5	X				X
Simmental	3	2	L	4	3	L	2	3	3	4	4	950	5	2	2	3	3	2	X				X
Shorthorn	2	4	A	3	3	A	2	3	3	2	1	1150	3	2	2	3	2	3	X				X
South Devon	3	3	A	2	3	L	2	3	3	2	2	1150	3	2	2	3	2	3	X				X

Explanation Where numbers are used, 1 is the highest rating and 5 the lowest; 2, 3 and 4 indicate various levels between 1 and 5.¹ In the column headed "gestation period", S = short, A = average and L = long. In the column headed "mature size", S = small, A = average, and L = large. The check marks in the last five columns indicate the positive situation, no check indicates the negative. Under "breed's place in crossbreeding", for example, a check mark under "maternal" means that in the opinion of the authors, the breed can be used successfully in producing crossbred females. Under "terminal" a check mark means the breed is best used to produce market "slaughter" animals.

The Macdonald Agro-Guide

The Thirst for Information

The demand for agricultural information in Quebec is unsurpassed by any province. Many people claim that farmers need "instant" information so that they can manage their farms profitably and competitively in 1971. I question the "instant" information for most of our agricultural producers but I certainly do agree that the need for accurate up-to-date information is vital. The reply in 1971 to this need is answered by members of the Faculty of Agriculture at Macdonald College in "The Macdonald Agro-Guide." This new loose leaf book is presently coming off the printing press in English and in French.

What is Agro-Guide?

This loose leaf handbook is divided into nine sections. Each section is indexed to help the user find the information that they are seeking. The pages are of standard size, 8½ by 11", with three holes. If you so desire, you can add other related information very readily to your Agro-Guide. This is a reference book; it is designed to provide answers to your questions. It is not a literary work; some sections are in note form. It is full of information and contains many useful tables and charts. The Agro-Guide should find a prominent place on the desk or book shelf in many homes and in cars of many agricultural technicians.

As I mentioned, Agro-Guide contains nine sections. There are sections on crop production, woodlot management, horticulture, animal production, soils, pests and plant diseases, agricultural engineering, farm management, and the home. We believe that these

nine sections will make a very useful reference guide for any farmer and his family.

The book was prepared by over 30 persons, each contributing their share. Agro-Guide is written for farmers and we sincerely hope they will find it useful. You will not find answers to all your questions in this book. Not only is it virtually impossible to cover every facet

connected with agriculture, in some instances the material can become obsolete before it is finally printed. We will endeavour to update the book when the opportunity presents itself.

When can I get Agro-Guide?

By the end of February our printer has promised that we will have an abundance of English and French

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traditions. As I write this, my hope is that we will have some copies before the end of January. Remember schedules do run into problems but most of us concerned with Agro-Guide hope daily for its early release. We will be delighted to send out copies of this book of which we are very proud.

Oh — Yes — The Price

This is the \$64 question as in all books the final price depends on the number of pages. As of today, Agro-Guide is so new that we cannot determine the exact number of pages. We expect that there will be a minimum of 350 pages; based on this figure the minimum cost of Agro-Guide must be \$9.85. This covers only the cost of translating, printing and shipping.

We are pleased to offer this book at this price. The price may have to increase on March 1 when all our production costs are finalized. In the meantime why not be one of the first in your community to own "The Macdonald Agro-Guide." I've been proud to work with the staff at Macdonald College to prepare this guide. You will be proud to show your copy to your neighbour.

b Dishwasher

(I) Models

Installed — This model has a permanent connection to hot water and a drain. These may be a free-standing model which does not require cabinet work or an under the counter model that does, because they have non-finished sides. The front comes in a variety of colors and finishes, while the tops are usually either the standard counter finishes or maplewood chopping boards.

Portable — Equipped with casters, they have hose connections to the hot water faucet and sink drain. When not in use the unit must have a storage place in the kitchen.

(II) Types

Top-loading — May be a portable or an installed model. Most installed top-loaders have a hinged counter top that lifts back. This means that upper wall cabinet space may have to be sacrificed to allow clearance. Also, loading dishes into this type is often inconvenient due to the arrangement of the racks.

Front-loading — May be a portable or an installed model. In this model the door opens down in front and the racks roll out separately.

(III) Other factors to consider

Heating element — Some dishwasher models have a built in water heater in order to deliver water for rinsing at a sanitizing temperature. Others have a heating element that is used only during the drying cycle.

Drain — pump drain — The water is pumped out into the sink drain line. This is the case in portables and some of the installed models. Gravity drain requires a separate drain. Models having a gravity drain are often less costly to purchase but the installation costs are increased due to the plumbing required.

Number of washes — Some models have two separate wash cycles, each using fresh water and fresh detergent. Some have a metered detergent dispenser so that the correct amount is released for each cycle. The number of rinses varies from one to four. Most models have a pre-rinse.

Capacity — This is stated in terms of the standard place setting and does not allow for the extra bowls used in the meal preparation and serving dishes.

Special cycles — Higher priced models offer a variety of extra cycles such as: a short rinse and a dry for dusty dishes, utility cycle for utensils, heavy cycle for extra soil and grease or a plate warming cycle.

c Refrigerators

(I) Types

Conventional or standard type which gives refrigeration and short term holding to a limited amount of frozen food. The freezer section is not sealed off as a separate unit from the other section. This gives rise to fluctuation in temperature not conducive to proper storage of frozen food.

Combination refrigerator-freezers — The freezer section is insulated from the refrigerator compartment so that there is no air movement between them. The freezer section maintains approximately zero degrees. These models are available as two door refrigerator-freezer combinations with the freezer across the top or bottom or at one side. The latter arrangement is found in the new vertical two-door designs.

(II) Special features

These vary — many models have adjustable shelving, vegetable crispers, separate compartments for butter, cheese and eggs. Some have cantilevered shelves, no frost or automatic defrost, automatic icemakers, meat keepers and ice cube ejectors. Some new models can be easily moved to facilitate cleaning under and behind them. These deluxe features cost extra.

d Freezers

(I) Styles

The choice of styles in freezers is the upright or the chest type. There are advantages and disadvantages to each of these.

Upright models resemble a standard refrigerator in design so you have easy access to the packages on the shelves and in the drawers. Also, you do not need to stoop to get them as you do with the chest type. An upright occupies about half the floor space required by a chest model. However, there is more loss of cold air when the door is opened. This causes frost to collect faster and adds to the operating cost.

Chest model — As cold air is heavier than warm air there is less cold air lost when the lid is lifted. More food can be stored per cubic foot in the chest type since little space is taken up by dividers. Some provide baskets for packages but these have to be lifted out when selecting foods and they are inclined to be heavy when loaded. Since items are stacked one on another in loading, unless carefully separated in like stacks, finding one specific item may be difficult.

(III) Capacity

Capacity is expressed as cubic feet of freezer space. One cubic foot will hold about 35 pounds of food packaged in regular sized packets. Freezers come in sizes as small as 3 cubic feet (compact model) or as large as 32 cubic feet.

(III) Special features

Freezer alarm system which signals when the warmest package reaches 15°F or when the circuit is broken. An internal light which goes on when the door is opened. Baskets and drawers which add convenience but take up space. No-frost or frost-free units which defrost every 24 hours, evaporating the resulting moisture away.

e Sinks

Sinks come in a variety of sizes and shapes. There are single, double or triple bowls of porcelain or stainless steel. A double bowl sink is convenient, especially if dishes are washed by hand. A single sink is sufficient if a dishwasher is used.

f Garbage disposer

Batch feed — This is filled, then activated by pressing down the lid. This is safe to use as the action must be stopped in order to add more garbage.

Continuous feed — This is turned on by means of a switch and waste can be added while it is operating. This may be dangerous, especially with young children, as fingers can get in as far as the cutting blades. It is easy to lose silver teaspoons and small items down its depths. This type is more expensive to install because of the necessity of a switch. With both types the cold water tap must be kept running so that grease will congeal and be disposed of rather than forming a coating on the pipes.

4 Before you buy — consider

a Space

See manufacturer's specification sheets for exact dimensions of equipment. Check manufacturer's instructions on space requirements for safe installation.

b Home wiring

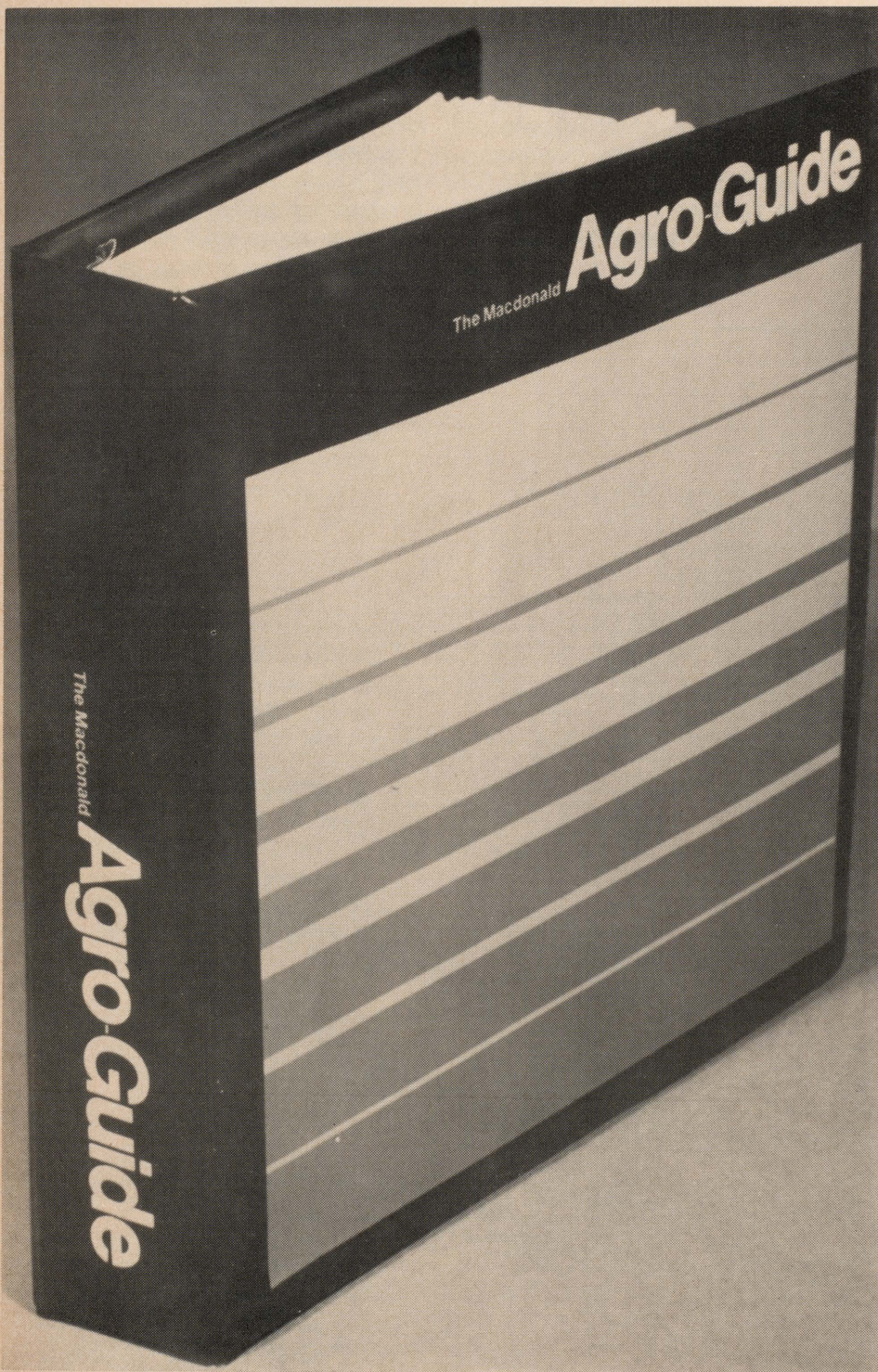
Note that most major equipment requires special purpose circuits. Ensure that wiring is adequate. Check that there are enough branch circuits of sufficient capacity to deliver ample power to the outlet to which appliance will be connected. Ensure that fuses or circuit breakers are of correct capacity to protect against overheating due to an overload or a short circuit.

c Water supply

Temperature and supply of water adequate to meet requirements. Water pressure adequate. If pressure is low select appliance with a metered water-fill mechanism. Soft water or water treated to prevent scale formation.

d Manufacturer

Select equipment manufactured by established reputable firms. Their reputation depends on providing items that meet consumer demands and perform as intended. They will back their product.



Can One Resist?

Agro-Guide has been a dream for many people at Macdonald College for at least six years. This project had its ups and downs, frequently more downs than ups. On September 15 a bombshell hit Macdonald College with the result that the Faculty may move and community programs will be out. The final order was still unsigned but hundreds of hours of work had already been done towards Agro-Guide. Some of us drew a deep breath; should we scrap the whole project at this stage. A positive nod from Dr. Dion was all it took on September 16 for all of us to proceed with new vigour to bring this project to a successful conclusion. I am very glad that this positive decision was taken. The Macdonald Agro-Guide will make a very valuable and long lasting contribution to the production of food in Canada.

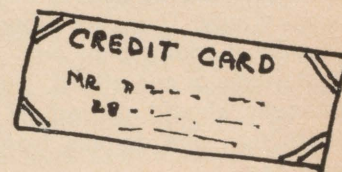
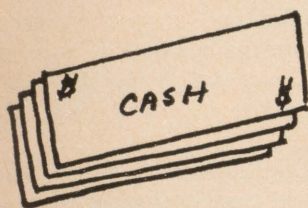
You may order your special introductory edition of "The Macdonald Agro-Guide" by sending a cheque or money order in the amount of \$9.85 to:

The Macdonald Agro-Guide,
Box 237,
Macdonald College, 800, Quebec.

Please be sure to print clearly your name and address and whether you want an English or French edition. This special price is being offered only until March 1, 1971. As mentioned previously, the price may have to be increased after that date.

Galen Driver,
Associate Director,
Centre for Continuing Education

Use of Credit in Family Money Matters



the use of credit in family consumer buying has increased steadily during the last decade and has gradually become a more acceptable means of purchasing. Consumer buying refers to the goods and services which a family buys to achieve its desired standard of living. It has no saving or investment aspect nor does it include expenditures anticipating financial returns. Is the use of credit for this type of family spending justifiable and recommendable?

Many factors must be considered before arriving at a valid answer. However, given the same conditions, you will still find many varied opinions. Generally the older the individual the more suspiciously he will regard credit buying. The acceptability of this type of purchasing in our youth usually remains the basis for our judgement. To understand these trends let us glance back at the past.

There was a time when one amassed capital through hard work, systematic saving and self-sacrifice before attempting any venture. Later it became acceptable to borrow money for sizeable projects such as investing in a house, a business venture and eventually even a car or truck, particularly if it was used in earning one's living. Financing consisted of using all one's savings and borrowing the remainder in a lump sum. This amount plus the accrued interest

was to be repaid in full at a prearranged future date. Conscientious saving and self-control were required to accumulate this substantial payment. This frequently proved very difficult and the strain was eventually alleviated by resorting to monthly installment payments which covered the loan, the interest and the service charges. This increased the cost of borrowing but eased the pressure of repayment. As this method became more acceptable and available, less expensive and less essential items were financed in this way. Today by means of credit cards, revolving accounts and easy loans almost any goods or services can be obtained "now" and paid "later". Since people of different ages identify with different eras of credit buying, the topic provides a major disagreement area between generations.

Let us try to be objective and see the advantages and disadvantages of credit buying for the family. "Buying on time" permits most families to acquire more than they would otherwise manage to do, thus permitting them to achieve a higher standard of living. This stimulates production and a constant demand for new products, which as economists will confirm, is the basis of our industrial economy. The unemployment caused by a slow-down would soon be reflected throughout society.

Credit buying is also very convenient; so convenient, in fact, that it has been predicted that money will eventually disappear as a means of exchange. Much time and effort is saved by checking and paying one credit statement per month rather than receiving bills for every item purchased or carrying the cash to pay them individually. Since the family is gradually becoming more a consumer unit and less a production unit, larger amounts of money are spent, greatly increasing the hazard of theft for those paying cash. Charge accounts, credit cards and even professional services provides this credit service free of charge for those who pay promptly. It not only saves wear and tear but does your accounting and provides a complete accurate financial record for analysis and improvement in future budgeting. Longer term credit, of course, costs extra, varying greatly with the source and conditions of the loan, but in some circumstances is still a valuable and useful resource.

I can sense many readers bursting to say "If you think theft is a hazard, what about overspending?" And, of course, you are right. This is the great hazard of easy credit, particularly if zealous advertisers and competitive merchants aim their sales pitch at poorly informed

and gullible buyers. This is not the fault of credit; it is the consumer's fault for he must learn to protect himself effectively. This can be faced in three main ways: 1) be realistic, 2) get the facts and 3) develop will power.

To be realistic, one must face squarely and honestly one's personal situation. Incomes, needs, responsibilities, commitments and potentials vary among individuals thus influencing their expenditure decisions. For instance, a clothes dryer may be essential for a mother of five but is a definite luxury for a single woman. A person must also recognize and accept his limitations and set his desires and goals accordingly. There are more items available today than any individual needs or can afford. This fact, however, should not reduce the satisfaction one derives from what one has.

Consumer facts are readily available from many sources such as consumer associations, government publications, reliable advice, radio, books, newspapers and magazines. These facts must be reliable and must be reviewed and assessed by the individual in the light of his own situation. Whatever he buys

he must recognize quality and select the one most suited to his needs. He must know and understand the financial arrangements available and choose the best one for him. Most schools today instruct young people in the skills of consumer purchasing which should serve them well in the consumer society of the future. Not so young people must seek out their own information in order to be competent consumers.

Finally, will power is essential for the individual to be able to stand fast to his decisions. This trait is developed gradually from childhood through example and guidance from those around us. The adult who has been indulged as a child will find this the most difficult to master. However, until he does master it he will be his own worst enemy.

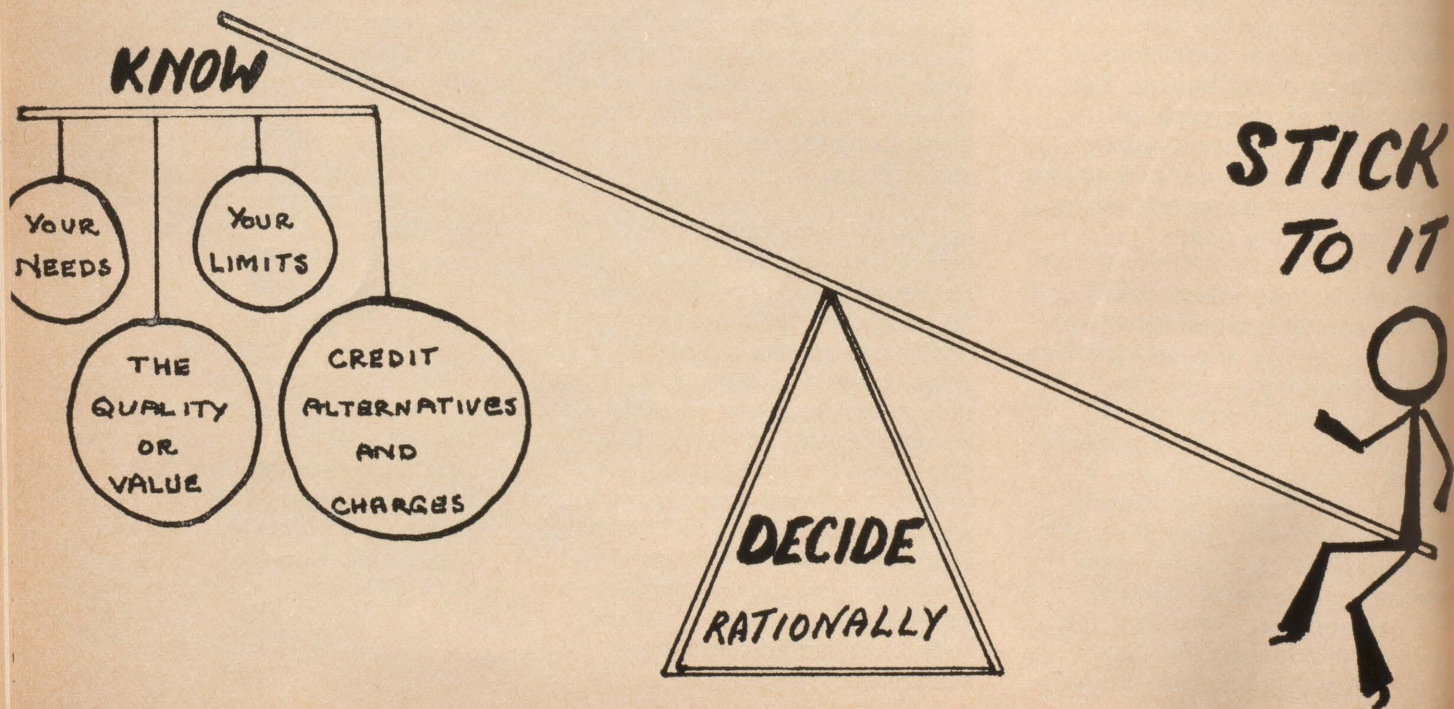
Thus we see that credit can be a valuable family resource if used knowledgeably and wisely but can also be disastrous if used carelessly or recklessly. In the latter case not only is the present financial situation endangered but the family's reputation and future credit is jeopardized.

Because our economy is relying more and more on credit, as one establishes his first credit he is rated. This "credit rating" is constantly updated and is available to the business community at large. It is based on his employment record, income, stability of residence, debt and repayment record, assets (financial, material and educational), legal record and personal characteristics such as social relations, family stability, maturity, trustworthiness, etc. Whenever he attempts a new venture, whether he wishes to borrow money, get a job, go into business or get married, his rating may be checked. Thus, this cumulative and constant record should be maintained in good order, since it may weigh heavily on opportunities in the future.

In this brief summary, it is hoped that credit may be recognized as a valuable "servant" to family financing but a very poor "master". Its value is directly related to the effectiveness of its management and use.

Mrs. Vivian H. Shipley,
School of Food Science.

BALANCED CREDIT BUYING



The Family

Farm

Published in the interests
of the farmers of the province
by the Quebec Department of
Agriculture and Colonization

Aid to Improve the Health and Genetic Quality of Sheep

Breeders of purebred sheep who own a classified flock or are members of a regional sheep breeders' association are now eligible for the benefits of a new assistance policy.

In announcing the policy, the Quebec minister of Agriculture and Colonization, Mr. Normand Toupin, points out that his department is aware of the harm being done to sheep flocks by certain diseases and wants to put a stop to it, especially through intensified control of internal parasites.

The assistance policy, entitled "Aid to Improve the Health and Genetic Quality of Sheep" is designed to encourage large-scale participation by farmers in a provincial program administered by the department's Veterinary service and Livestock Improvement division with the help of the regional and provincial agricultural laboratories.

To help sheep breeders to take part in the program, the department will repay them the veterinarian's charges for three inspections carried out on the farm during a year. These visits will enable cooperating veterinarians to compile statistics on the incidence of the diseases and recommend preventive treatments and measures. About 30 veterinarians recently took a two-day refresher course at the Veterinary college in St-Hyacinthe in preparation for their visits to sheep breeders' farms.

The program is being put into effect in response to repeated requests by a number of sheep breeders' associations in Quebec which attach enormous importance to the hereditary factor in making sheep raising more profitable.

Quebec Does Well at International Dairy Show in London

The Granby agricultural cooperative society won three bronze medals in the skim milk powder class at the 1970 Royal International Dairy Show held recently in London. The medals were awarded to the big cooperative (which won the gold medal at this show in 1969) for products entered by dairy factories at Bon-Conseil, Plessisville, and Granby.

In the cheese class, Mr. Albert Perron of St-Prime in the Lake St. John region came first among the Quebec entrants. The second and third places went to the Granby and Chicoutimi cooperatives.

Promotion of Artificial Insemination

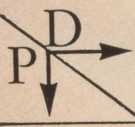
The following information applies to Region 1 (Lower St. Lawrence), Region 8 (Ottawa Valley), and the County of Charlevoix. By means of this policy, the Department of Agriculture and Colonization is seeking to improve herds of dairy and beef cattle in the above-mentioned regions through maximum use of the first-class sires kept at St. Hyacinthe.

The policy is intended to replace the one entitled 'Placement of dairy cows in handicapped regions' which was also designed to improve herds of cattle. In view of the hereditary qualities of the bulls kept at the Quebec A.I. Centre, this new policy should produce much better results.

The Department's aid consists in payment of part of the cost of **first matings** when carried out with semen of bulls from the Quebec A.I. Centre at St. Hyacinthe. The farmer must: 1. be a raiser of dairy or beef cattle; 2. be a member in good standing of an established cattle breeding club in one of these regions; 3. apply to an inseminator of an established cattle breeding club in the region concerned.

The farmer's share of the charge for insemination is fixed at \$4, regardless of location; but the Department's contribution will vary according to each club's insemination costs, which are calculated from the club's ratings (A, B, C, D or E) with regard to two different factors — distance travelled and cow potential (i.e. number of cows it could be called on to inseminate).

Twenty-five different combinations of these two ratings are possible, as shown in the table which also shows the club's insemination costs (comprising the farmer's share and the Department's contribution). These costs are the average of those based on the club's distance rating D (horizontal axis) and those based on its potential or cow population rating P (vertical axis).

	A 6.00	B 7.00	C 8.00	D 9.00	E 10.00
A 6.00	AA 6.00	AB 6.50	AC 7.00	AD 7.50	AE 8.00
B 7.00	BA 6.50	BB 7.00	BC 7.50	BD 8.00	BE 8.50
C 8.00	CA 7.00	CB 7.50	CC 8.00	CD 8.50	CE 9.00
D 9.00	DA 7.50	DB 8.00	DC 8.50	DD 9.00	DE 9.50
E 10.00	EA 8.00	EB 8.50	EC 9.00	ED 9.50	EE 10.00

Bases of ratings: As regards distance, a club is rated:
 A, if at least 85 percent of the cows are within a radius of 15 miles of its head office in the middle of the villages in the territory served;
 B, if 75 to 84 percent of the cows are (as in A);
 C, if 65 to 74 percent of the cows are (as in A);
 D, if 50 to 64 percent of the cows are (as in A);
 E, if less than 50 percent of the cows are (as in A).

As regards potential or cow population, a club is rated:
 A, if the number of potentially inseminable cows is 10,000 or more; B, if between 8,000 and 10,000; C, if between 6,000 and 8,000; D, if between 4,000 and 6,000; E, if less than 4,000.
 On the basis of these ratings, clubs

covered by this policy are classified as follows:

AA (\$6.00): Saint Pascal, Cacouna.
 AB (\$6.50): Mont Joli, Amqui, Saint Hermas.
 AC (\$7.00): La Pocatière, Trois Pistoies, Saint Clément, Bic, Matane.
 BB (\$7.00): Thurso.
 BC (\$7.50): Pontiac.
 CC (\$8.00): Charlevoix, Mont Laurier.
 CD (\$8.50): Cabano, Sainte Rose du Dégelé.
 CE (\$9.00): Baie des Chaleurs East.
 DD (\$9.00): Wakefield, Papineau West.
 DE (\$9.50): Brébeuf, Fort Coulonge, Maniwaki.
 EE (\$10.00): Baie des Chaleurs West.

Following verification of breeding certificates by the Quebec A.I.

Centre, each established club in the regions concerned will receive a monthly cheque for the number of first inseminations carried out by its inseminators, among whom the amount (in conformity with the above table) will be shared.

It is agreed that each cattle breeding club shall keep the money required for its administration expenses out of the \$4 paid by the farmer, as follows: AA and AB clubs may keep \$1.50; BB, AC, BC, and AD clubs may keep \$1.75; other clubs may keep \$2.

Requests for further information should be made to the Quebec Artificial Insemination Centre, P.O. Box 518, Saint Hyacinthe, P.Q.

A.I. Aid for the Lake St. John Region

In view of the genetic quality of the bulls kept at the Quebec Artificial Insemination Centre and the effect that the use of these bulls can have in improving dairy and beef herds, the Department of Agriculture and Colonization desires to help farmers in the Lake St. John Region to make maximum use of them. Special assistance is provided for farmers in this region in order to generalize the use of artificial insemination throughout the territory.

The assistance consists in payment of part of the breeding fee for first inseminations made with semen from the Quebec A.I. Centre at Saint-Hyacinthe, Que.

Farmers can obtain A.I. services by applying to the inseminators of cattle breeding clubs established

Despite the convenience of A.I., many farmers still prefer to keep a bull on their farms. Seen below is Mr. Oliver Watt of Marcil with part of his herd, bull included.

in the Lake St. John region, which are affiliated with the Quebec A.I. Centre. This assistance policy is a replacement formula for the one entitled "Placement of dairy cows in handicapped regions". To qualify for this assistance: 1. The farmer must be a raiser of dairy or beef cattle and a member in good standing of a cattle breeding club established in the Lake St. John region, 2. The assistance applies only to matings which are considered to be first matings.

The shares of the cost payable by the farmer and by the Department of Agriculture and Colonization are as follows:

Years of operation	Farmer's share	Dept's share
First	\$3.00	\$4.00
Second	3.00	4.00
Third	3.50	3.50
Fourth	4.00	3.00
Fifth	4.50	2.50
Sixth	5.00	2.00

Breeding certificates will be verified by the Quebec A.I. Centre. Each cattle breeding club established in the Lake St. John region will receive, every month, a cheque for the number of first matings carried out by its inseminator(s). The amount will then, as the case may be, be divided among the inseminators.

It is understood that cattle breeding clubs will keep \$1.50 of the sum paid by the farmer, for administration purposes. The remainder must be turned over to the inseminators.

All requests for further information

should be addressed to the Quebec Artificial Insemination Centre, P.O. Box 518, St. Hyacinthe.

The Quebec Dairy Herd Analysis Program

With the object of helping milk producers in Quebec to make their dairy farming more profitable, the Department of Agriculture and Colonization, in collaboration with Macdonald College, offers them a complete dairy herd analysis service.

The service, called the **Quebec Dairy Herd Analysis Program**, makes use of a computer to calculate yields, production costs, returns, recommended feed requirements and other useful information, for each of the herds and cows enrolled. Every month, members receive a detailed report

containing precise data and suggestions about the production, feeding and management of their herds.

This offer is open to farmers who want to take advantage of the program for selection purposes to improve the heredity quality of their dairy herds and who wish to benefit from the recommendations on feeding and management to increase their yields and returns.

To qualify for enrolment in the program, a milk producer must: 1) own a herd of more than 20 dairy cows and have his application approved by the regional livestock specialist; 2) pay the enrolment fee of \$15; 3) supply all information required to enroll his herd; 4) cooperate closely with the supervisor, in particular giving him



all information needed for the normal carrying out of the program, such as: dates of breeding, calving and end of lactation, and meal ration, quantity and quality of forage fed to each cow, and any other pertinent information; 5) enroll and put on test all the cows in his herd; 6) pay to the supervisor, each month, when he makes his monthly visit, the administration costs of 30 cents per cow (whether she is milking or not), every month he is enrolled in the program (minimum monthly charge for the herd, \$7).

It is also essential that the farmers shall keep handy the equipment required to obtain the necessary data, including scales suitable for weighing milk, articles for identifying the animals, etc. The milk sampling must be done according to the supervisor's directions.

History of Dairy Herd Testing

The basic aim of any dairy herd testing program is to provide farmers with information essential to sound and effective management.

The idea is not a new one; in fact, at the start of this century, different systems had already been introduced in Canada and the United States. But they were simple systems strictly limited to the recording and calculation of milk yields, butterfat content, and selection or culling. Although far from being as thorough as today's herd testing programs, by the 1940s and early 1950s they made it possible to increase milk yields by about a hundred pounds a year per cow.

Thanks to modern dairy herd

analysis methods made possible by the use of computers, increases in milk production have been tripled and, in some states of the U.S., increases of 400 pounds per cow a year have been achieved.

A computer was used in a herd testing program in the United States for the first time in 1953. Since then, 12 similar centres have been organized. They now provide monthly services to 60,000 milk producers with 2.5 million cows in 50 States.

In 1965, taking these systems in the United States as a model — but introducing the necessary changes — Dr. John Moxley of the Animal Science Department at Macdonald College started to set up a computerized dairy herd analysis service. The first of its kind in Canada, the service also made the innovation of including suggestions on feeding and management in its program. The first herd was enrolled in it in May, 1966, and, two years later, 900 dairy farmers had enrolled about 28,000 cows. Today more than 50,000 cows in 1,600 herds are taking part in this program.

Fifteen Million Feet of Drains Laid on Quebec Farms in 1970

Nearly 15 million feet of drains were laid in farmlands in different regions of Quebec in 1970 and another 20 million feet should be laid in 1971. In making this statement, the director of the Quebec department of Agriculture and Colonization's Agricultural Hydraulics service, Mr. Léopold Provencher, added that at this rate of progress in farm subdrainage the target of 50 million feet by 1972

can be expected to be considerably exceeded.

In 1970, the laying of over 12 million feet was carried out in the drainage districts of Drummondville and Montreal alone. Subdrainage work was begun about the end of April and was still under way as late as mid-December in the area southwest of Montreal.

The progress being made in underdraining farmlands in Quebec can be judged by comparing the above figures and forecasts with the total of 11,311,000 feet for 1969 and 8,877,000 for 1968. Since the five-year subdrainage plan was put into effect in 1968, over 35 million feet of drains have been laid in Quebec's farmlands.

Quality Stressed in Dairy Products

In 1969, Quebec dairy farmers received about \$256,374,000 from sales of their products. This was 38 percent of the value of Canada's dairy production. These figures were cited by Mr. Luc Vachon, president of the agricultural technologists Association in a speech to participants in the 1970 dairy products improvement Contest.

Mr. Vachon said that even though Quebec's dairy produce is noted for its quality, it is essential to try and improve that quality still more in order to increase consumption of the products. He pointed out that a high-quality product will always be sought after by the consumer, who does not hesitate to buy good merchandise. Exacting demands of world markets will never be an obstacle to the export of outstanding products.



As regards the importance of the dairy industry in Quebec, Mr. Vachon said that, in 1969, cheese production totalled 72 million pounds or 43 percent of Canada's output; butter production 170 million pounds or nearly 50 percent; and skim milk powder 261 million pounds or nearly 70 percent. As regards the quality of Quebec's dairy products, he said that, on June 1, 1970, 96.4 percent of the butter, 95.3 percent of the cheese and 96.4 percent of the skim milk powder graded qualified for the first grade. Mr. Vachon added that figures like these spoke for themselves and were probably known to the manufacturers (311 of them) who entered for the contest in 1970.

Prizes and trophies worth \$22,500 were awarded to the winners, who were honoured at a special dinner during "craftsmen's evening".

The competition, which is designed to improve dairy products through healthy rivalry among personnel who make them in Quebec's dairy factories, is subsidized by the Quebec department of Agriculture and Colonization and arranged by the department's information service.

4-H Conference Rewarding Experience for Participants

In spite of some difficulties of communication caused by language barriers, active participation in national 4-H conferences is a profitable intellectual investment and a valuable experience. This, at any rate, was the conclusion reached by 14 young rural people from Quebec who took part in the 1970 Conference held in Ontario during November under the auspices of the Canadian Council on 4-H Clubs.

These 14 Quebec delegates met again afterwards at Victoriaville to assess the results of this week-long experience they had shared with 125 other young Canadians. They considered that most of the national 4-H Club Conference's aims had been achieved.

The aims of these conferences are as follows: to enable the participants to get to know Canada better and understand its political, social and economic organization and the international role it is called upon to play; to make them better acquainted with 4-H aims and programs in different provinces; and to make young Canadians aware of their role as citizens and prepare them to fulfil it.

QWI

Argenteuil

Arundel: Members brought a friend, had a Christmas party, carol singing and gave a donation to the Arundel Amateur Athletic Association.

Brownsburg: Had a guest soloist, invited guests. Four members presented a play with the true Christmas spirit. Much talent was evidenced in the presentation of this play. Dalesville-Louisa: Had a business meeting and then planned to meet later to have their gift exchange and pack treats and plan entertainment for a senior citizens' home at St. Philippe d'Argenteuil.

Frontier: Had carol singing, contest, gave several donations to worthy causes, had original poems by the members, and at their exchange of gifts Santa gave all a delightful surprise by giving everyone present lovely Christmas aprons, which some unknown "Mrs. Santa" had spent hours making. Jerusalem-Bethany: Dined out at Vachon's Restaurant, Chatboro, for their meeting and members brought gifts for the Rosemere Home.

Lachute: Members gave a Christmas thought and a few lines of a carol as their roll call, heard an article on Christmas customs.

Christmas verses were also read. Lakefield: Heard a delightful story of a first Christmas in Canada, had a gift exchange. A letter was read from a member who is spending the winter in Mexico.

Pioneer: Brought jams and jellies for The Residence in Lachute, gave a donation to C.N.I.B., sang carols and heard the Christmas story.

Upper Lachute: Brought visitors, sang carols, gave a donation to The Residence, had an exchange of gifts with Santa as master of ceremonies.

Brome

Austin: Sponsoring a youth to attend Youth Parliament in Quebec City.

Christmas party held with exchange of gifts. Gift given to a member who is spending the winter in Georgia and Florida. Mrs. D. F. Patterson showed slides of her recent trip to Scotland, the Maritimes and Newfoundland.

South Bolton: Plans made for Christmas Cheer for sick and shut-ins, children's party, and help for school cafeteria. Sutton: Had a demonstration on dried flowers and weeds for winter bouquets, etc.

Chateauguay-Huntingdon

Aubrey-Riverfield: The Christmas meeting took the form of an all-day meeting with a turkey dinner. A Christmas story by Nellie McClung was read, favourite carols were sung and gifts exchanged. Cards were sent to W.I. staff at

Macdonald and former absent members. Two quilts and gifts were sent to the Chateauguay Association for Retarded Children. All thanked the hostess, Mrs. Harold Robertson, for an enjoyable day. Dewittville:

The members entertained their husbands at the home of the president. Cards were played at eight tables. Christmas meeting: Each member brought six pieces of Christmas baking for refreshments. A Christmas story and carols were enjoyed and the gifts which the members had brought in for shut-ins in the community were distributed. Franklin Centre: Mrs. James Manning showed slides of her world tour. Howick: Mrs. Willa Hooker spoke on the "Opportunity Classes" with retarded children. Christmas cookies were sent to shut-ins and homes in the

district. Huntingdon: The annual Christmas party was held at the home of Mrs. Leboeuf who entertained a large group of members and their friends and served a delicious Christmas supper. Mrs. Archer demonstrated six platters of delicious holiday goodies. Gifts were drawn from the Christmas Pie and 14 baskets which had been made in the Gay Valley School were filled for shut-ins.

Ormstown: A program of slides from various points of interest in Europe with an informative commentary by Mrs. Steen Gillard was enjoyed. In the place of an exchange of gifts, \$1 was given by each member to be used for the annual Christmas party sponsored by the Chateauguay Valley Association for the Mentally Retarded.

Compton

Brookbury: Packed boxes for shut-ins and a family. Held an exchange of gifts. Helped Bury with Record Hop and card party. Rose bowl sent to a member in hospital. Bury: Card party and Record Hop realized \$123.61 for school cafeteria. North Shore students invited. Series of card parties netted \$178.85. A card was signed by all members present and sent to an elderly member who is ill. Rose bowls were sent to W.I. members in hospital. Carols were sung; gifts were sent to veterans in hospital. East Clifton: Brought gifts for forgotten patient in hospital, Christmas cheer planned for shut-ins. Christmas music and carols were sung. Discussions held on Christmas gifts, animal health needs, home remedies and dangers of crash diets. Scotstown: Exchanged gifts. Gave gifts to shut-

ns. Helped with prizes for card party and Record Hop held in Bury. Saw slides of Mount Washington and other places taken by a member.

Gatineau

Rupert: Carols sung by all members. Mrs. Cedric Moore gave a history of the Christmas carols. A Christmas box of fruit, pickles and cookies to be sent to Morningside Home as well as a box of goodies to a sick member. Three elderly members received plants. Repairs being done to W.I. Hall. Held an exchange of gifts. Wright: Donations given to Quebec Service fund and Canadian Cancer Society. Readings included — "I suppose you are all ready for Christmas and I hate you"; "The modern grandma"; "Who is Santa Claus?" Carols were sung and gifts distributed. Shut-ins remembered.

Missisquoi

Cowansville: The chief topic of discussion at the meeting was the problem of retarded children. Three days later a visit was paid to the Occupational Training School for handicapped children in this town. Hundreds of articles were on display and for sale, including woodwork, knitted goods, toys, Christmas decorations, collections of dried wild flowers, etc., all made by the pupils of the school.

Fordyce: Donated \$25 to the school for retarded children in Cowansville, \$10 to the Montreal Children's Hospital and \$25 towards the purchase of a piano for slow learners in the Massey Vanier School. Carols were sung and gifts exchanged. Stanbridge East: Christmas greetings were exchanged in three different languages. Each member brought gifts for patients at the Douglas Hospital, and a motion was made to send a gift each month to a forgotten patient in that hospital. Prizes were awarded by the W.I. at the local school opening. Two large boxes of used clothing and 40 flannelette diapers were shipped to the Unitarian Relief, and a letter of thanks received. A donation of \$25 was sent to the Association for the Mentally Retarded in the District of Bedford.

Pontiac

Bristol: Donated money for blender for Ade Home. Gave donations to Save the Children's fund and T.B. seals. Made plans to make dressings for Cancer Clinic. Decorated Christmas Tree in Memorial Park. Exchanged gifts and sang carols. A donation was also given to the heart fund. Clarendon: December meeting took the form of a Christmas party with exchange of gifts and singing carols. Members brought donations for the patients

in the Pontiac Community Hospital and Ade Home. Sympathy cards were sent to bereaved families and greeting cards to all W.I. branches in Pontiac County and to members who were ailing or hospitalized. A very excellent report was given on the work done by the W.I. for the hospital. Project: to make bibs for the patients in hospital, especially the Ade Home. Wyman: Thanks expressed by a member who had received a mohair blanket from the Abbie Pritchard fund. Donated \$25 towards a blender for the Ade Memorial Hospital. Program consisted of the singing of carols and "Thoughts on Christmas". Held an exchange of gifts. A recent bride was presented with a gift.

Richmond

Cleveland: Christmas boxes packed for sick and shut-ins at the Wales Home and in the community. Citizenship Convener, Mrs. Gordon Healy, read an item entitled "Residence Suggested for Premier of Quebec." Members exchanged gifts and members' children remembered with gifts of candy. Denison Mills: Program consisted of a humorous reading on pollution and a poem "I'll Fix Anthony". Pamphlets on salmon recipes distributed. White elephant sale netted \$3. Thirty-three Christmas candy bags given to the

Ellen Louise Atto



young girl. Here she received her education at the Young Ladies' Academy, and as the custom then was, she was granted an A.A. Certificate at the University of Bishop's College.

Her early married life was spent on a farm near Lennoxville. In 1901 her husband was killed in a tragic accident near Thetford, Que. There were five children, four of whom survive their mother. Selling the farm in 1923, the family moved to Lennoxville. Mrs. Atto was a devoted mother, and also took an active part in community life. She held all the different offices in the Lennoxville Women's Institute, and was welcomed at all W.I. Conventions, as one able to evaluate both past and present in our work. She was given a Life Membership in February, 1923, by her Branch, and was chosen to plant

trees on the lawn of the Town Hall to celebrate 50 years of service that the Lennoxville Women's Institute has given to the community.

Her devotion to St. George's Anglican Church was great, and her name is inscribed on a plaque in the entrance.

Mrs. Atto's life was one of service, and it is fitting that the Lennoxville Women's Institute, in presenting a table for children to the new Library, are placing on it a plaque to honour the memory of this revered member.

She attended W.I. meetings until she entered a nursing home a little over a year ago. On October 10, 1970, she passed away at the advanced age of 98.

In Sherbrooke County, our Women's Institute dates back to 1914, and among the women who pioneered this work in Lennoxville, no one is more highly esteemed than the late Mrs. Ellen Louise Atto (nee Johnston).

Mrs. Atto was born in Broughton, Que. She came to Sherbrooke as a

children of the community. Cotton brought in for cancer society. Pennies for Friendship collected. Melbourne Ridge: Members brought gifts for a forgotten mental patient. Christmas greetings received from Mrs. B. Stainthorpe, a former member. Read a thank-you note from Mrs. D. Ellis for money donated to help buy wool with which she knits for a leper colony. Heard reports of gifts bought and the sending of two sunshine baskets. Gifts for Dixville Home. Pennies for Friendship collected. Carol singing enjoyed after which children's and members' gifts were distributed. Richmond Hill: Gifts and \$10 for needy children sent to the Dixville Home. Voted \$15 to the St. Francis Welfare Fund. Christmas cheer boxes sent to sick and shut-ins in the neighbourhood. A pair of pillow cases made by the late Mrs. Hattie Lockerood given to the group to be drawn for. Richmond Young Women: A boy and a girl at the Dixville Home remembered with gifts. Held an exchange of gifts. Shipton: Held a discussion on cancer and many leaflets distributed. A Christmas party followed the business session. Games and cards were played. Held a contest for the best Christmas decoration. The winner was Mrs. R. Hull for pine cones decorated as faces. Project: A visit and party for the Wales Home when gifts will be distributed and homemade bread and cupcakes will be served. Donation to the Quebec Extension Fund. Spooner Pond: Booklets of recipes for festive foods and maple sugar given out. Report heard on the activities of the St. Francis Elementary school. Bought and wrapped gifts for shut-ins and three Dixville Home children. Donation given to county for Wales Home Christmas Cheer Fund. The President gave a report of her trip to the Richmond Weaving Room. Pennies for Friendship collected. Held a drawing on a picture donated with proceeds added to funds. Exchange of gifts enjoyed. Gifts given to pre-school children. Christmas carols ended a most enjoyable meeting. A lunch of Christmas breads and Stollen was served.

Shefford

Granby: Roll call was without looking, tell the colour of your right-hand neighbour's eyes.

Christmas project was to remember mentally retarded and underprivileged children, and shut-ins in local Homes. Members exchanged gifts. Waterloo/Warden: Each member brought in gifts for patients at the Waterloo Hospital. Former members and shut-ins to be remembered with gifts. Care package raffled. Members exchanged gifts. Federated News distributed. Carols were sung and Christmas poems read.

Sherbrooke

Ascot: Donated \$66.41 to UNICEF — net proceeds of a card party convened by Mrs. Y. Alain, Citizenship Convener. Brought in gifts for cancer patients. Worked at cancer room. Lennoxville: Mrs. Porter, Education Convener, read an article on University Education, followed by discussion. Miss Kathleen Atto read articles on aspidistras and on growing gloxinias. Held Christmas party with exchange of gifts. Milby: Gave prizes for the best trimmed basket. Nine members enjoyed a dinner and a tour of Alexander Galt Regional School. Two books donated to Lennoxville Elementary School, also \$10 was given to the Hot Lunch Fund there.

It is with deep regret that we learned of the death of Mrs. Toy, who for many years was gracious enough to serve as pianist for our annual conventions at Macdonald College. Our sympathy goes to her family.

Hemmingford School Fair A Project Completed

The Hemmingford Elementary School held its annual school fair in September, 1970. This fair is sponsored by the Hemmingford Women's Institute.

In March the Convener of Agriculture distributed seeds to interested children. These seeds were obtained from Perron seed company through Mr. Jacobson, of Little Denmark Flower Shop in Hemmingford. The seeds come in bulk and are divided into packets for distribution to the children. Each child receives five varieties of vegetables and three of flowers.

The children are asked for 25 cents for these and this helps to defray the cost of the seeds.

In September the children bring their vegetables and flowers in for judging. Other entries include baking, sewing, knitting, hobbies, collections and arts. This year 52 children took seeds and 71 took part in the fair. The children are divided into two groups. Group 1: Ages 7 to 9; Group 2: 10 years and up. Group 1 had 45 entries and Group 2 had 26. The standard of entries was very good and a good display of flowers and vegetables was brought in. Flower arrangements were well done. There were many entries in Group 1 baking. The judges had their work cut out judging the models and hobbies.

The children were congratulated for their good work. A program of races was held under the supervision of the Principal, Mr. McKay. Thanks to all those who helped to make the fair a success. These included: Mr. McKay and teachers, the school caretaker, Mr. Sommerville, the School Board, and interested friends. Many generous donations were received.

Mrs. George Dickenson,
Publicity Convener.

F.W.I.C. Convention News

A Western Barbecue

Another member from Belvidere Branch, Sherbrooke County, Mrs. Catherine Tarte and I attended the F.W.I.C. Conference in Winnipeg last August and we have been asked to give our impressions of the western barbecue. Mrs. Tarte is in Ottawa for the winter, but I am sure that I am speaking for both of us when I say that it was a new and exciting experience and one we will long remember.

We left the University of Manitoba at about six p.m. on Thursday. Buses and cars took about 455 of us to the Kilburn Farms, which are owned by James Richardson Ltd. The F.W.I.C. members were privileged and honoured to be one of two groups entertained there during the year. We were met at the entrance of the grounds by two pipers from the Winnipeg Police Force who led us across a footbridge. The Executive of the



F.W.I.C. members at F.W.I.C. Convention, back row left to right: Mrs. Catherine Martel, Mrs. Estelle Coates, Miss Edna Smith, Miss Hanna Smith. Front row left to right: Miss Edna Smith, Mrs. George McGibbon, Mrs. Cameron Brown, Mrs. Graham Spry, Mrs. V. R. Leattie and Mrs. Carol Farnam.

F.W.I.C. rode on a hay-wagon, seated on bales of hay, drawn by tractor to the beautiful site of the barbecue. It was a delightful spot in a grove of large trees and here were bales of hay placed around for seats.

Some of us, myself included, expected to see the beef being barbecued, instead we learned that it was being done in a deep pit. The fire had been lighted the day before, then 400 pounds of beef, which had been boned, rolled and wrapped in burlap had been placed in the coals early that morning, covered with a heavy sheet of metal, then buried in sand. We stood spellbound while four men hoveled the pile of sand off, carefully removed the lid, brought out the rolls of meat and carved them. Oh, yes, there were huge tubs in which 600 cobs of corn were boiled. What a delicious barbecue it was! The meat was beautifully cooked and tender. It was served with buns, relishes, and, of course, the corn. This was followed by ice cream, sweets, coffee and soft drinks. We sat on bales of hay, on a slight grade facing a stage behind which we could see the water through the branches of trees.

We were welcomed by Mr. Lawson, Vice-President of James Richardson Ltd., and Mr. Bill Guest, CBC commentator, was Master of ceremonies.

A special part of the program was Bill Guest's impromptu "Reach for the Top". The western team consisted of Mrs. M. Fulton, Mrs. M. Bielish, Mrs. A. Ulrich and Mrs. M. Palmer who competed against the eastern team of Mrs. F. Clarke, Mrs. F. Matheson, Mrs. E. McLean and Mrs. M. Trivers. This was very entertaining with the eastern team scoring the highest number of points.

It was a wonderful experience to be part of such a friendly gathering of members from all the provinces of Canada, the North West Territories and the Yukon, representing approximately 3,000 branches and 60,000 members of a wonderful organization.

Edna L. Smith,
2nd Vice-President,
Quebec Women's Institutes.

Manitoba Day at the Convention

"Buses will leave at 8 a.m." That meant rising a little earlier, hurrying across the campus, swallowing breakfast as quickly as possible, then waiting...

Someone had calculated badly and not enough buses had arrived. So we waited until another bus and driver could be located and we were on our way shortly before nine. For many of us it was our first glimpse of the prairies and "Isn't it flat!" was repeated over and over again.

Our first stop was at Morden Research Station where we were served coffee and raisin buns and given a short talk on the research done on buckwheat, peas, corn, flax, sunflowers and soybeans.

Then on to the Peace Gardens where ladies from North Dakota waited with box lunches. Only a small part of these gardens is laid out with flowers; the rest is used by several organizations. The Canadian Legion Physical Fitness Program enrolled 550 last year. The International Music Camp enrolment climbed to 3,650 over an 11-week period, and there are picnic sites maintained by several other groups. The high point of our visit there was at the All-Faiths Chapel, built by members of the Order of the Eastern Star in both Canada and the U.S. A member of our group delighted us with music on the Chapel organ, and our visit there concluded with the two National Anthems. The formal gardens were beautiful but the day was too dull for taking pictures. A larger donation has been requested to help provide lighting and maintenance for the F.W.I.C. Picnic Nook.

Into the buses again and off to Brandon where we had supper at the Agricultural Extension Centre and a drive around the city accompanied by a member from Brandon to show us the points of interest.

On our way back to Winnipeg and the University we were kept awake with songs and stories by those who still had enough energy after about 350 miles of driving. Eleven o'clock found us back in our rooms, tired but happy, and very much better informed about southern Manitoba.

Hanna E. Smith,
President, Argenteuil County.

The Last Word

Snowmobiles are to snowshoes and skis what automobiles once were to the horse and buggy. They threaten to transform our winter culture and it is hardly surprising that any way of joining the invincible Canadian winter would generate enthusiasm verging on fanaticism. Alpine skiing did it long ago and ski-touring is now threatening to do the same. It has been suggested by some that skiing has almost a narcotic effect.

For many, snowmobiles transform the dreary winter season into, at least, something easier to endure and, at most, a time of great pleasure and excitement. The task of those who must cross snow-covered areas in their work is made much easier. For the majority of snowmobile users, however, the machine offers escape from the grind, the routine, the rat race. They can now enjoy fresh air, exercise, excitement and *joie de vivre*. Machines that can do that can't be all bad. They may even represent the best buy in psychiatry one could find.

Nevertheless, bitter controversy rages. Skiers, farmers and cottagers denounce the snowmobile operators. Accidents and injuries are reported by police who deplore the antics of snowmobile drivers. On the other hand users and producers of the machine blame government for lack of control of the situation. Owners demand suitable places to enjoy their sport while others are totally opposed to use of public funds for such purposes. Industry, naturally, and probably quite rightly, presses its selling campaign on the ground that we need all the jobs

and winter activity we can get, particularly in 1971.

It would be a reckless person indeed who would attempt to meet the snowmobile problem head on at this stage. But one can perhaps risk some comments for the sake of argument in this "love them or hate them" confrontation. Some reasons for love have been indicated earlier. Let us now turn to hate for a moment.

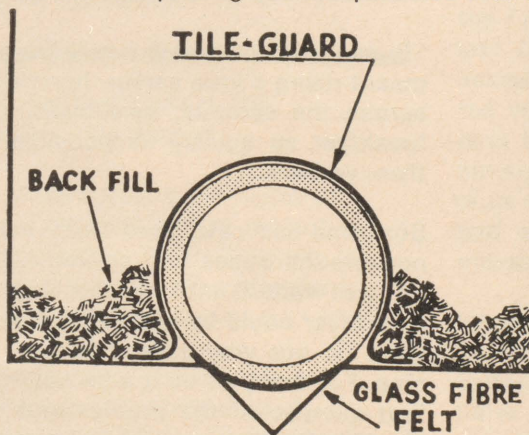
Snowmobiles are noisy — possibly ranking next only to the

chain saw in their noise/weight ratio. They are more often than not driven at high speed. It should be no surprise that they can greatly annoy people, particularly since escape to the country for many is an attempt to leave noise pollution behind for a few brief hours. A few carelessly noisy drivers can create enemies for all others in a few minutes.

Accidents resulting in injury and death have been common enough to draw public attention. They provide topics for television pro-

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ms and open-line radio programs. snowmobile is blamed for accidents and not the careless, careless, and ignorant driving. It were the real causes. Possibly machines are lacking in some needed safety equipment, but, of course, most sports, even racing, produce injuries from time to time. Many have become haters because snowmobile riders have been where they should not have behaved in highly irresponsible and even criminal ways. Fences, broken windows, vandalism, damaged crops, enraged victims have resulted. Their feelings are particularly bitter because there is practically no chance of their apprehending culprits, even if they see them in action.

To add something to the controversy that we dare to hope would have some constructive value, I would suggest the following measures. These suggestions come from one who has never used a snowmobile but who has considered the interest in winter recreation and who does not expect the snowmobile to be banned or to disappear away.

Manufacturers should, in their own interests, do more than talk about noise reduction. Chainsaw manufacturers do. Reduced noise would also reduce danger of damage to the driver's hearing, increase his safety, and probably lower the accident rate significantly.

Horsepower for recreational machines should be set at some reasonable level. High-powered machines, for racing only, should only be sold to specially qualified drivers.

Only tested operators should be allowed to drive — as with automobiles and aircraft — and all should carry licences. Clear restrictions should exist regarding what classes of public roads, if any, snowmobiles may use. If roads are opened to snowmobiles, signs should warn motorists of this. All machines should be fitted with adequate safety devices for public road operation and while on roads they should be subject to standard traffic regulations.

Every snowmobile operated should be subject to an annual

registration fee with proceeds to be assigned to: A) reimbursement of owners who suffer property damage; B) helping to defray costs of providing snowmobile recreation areas.

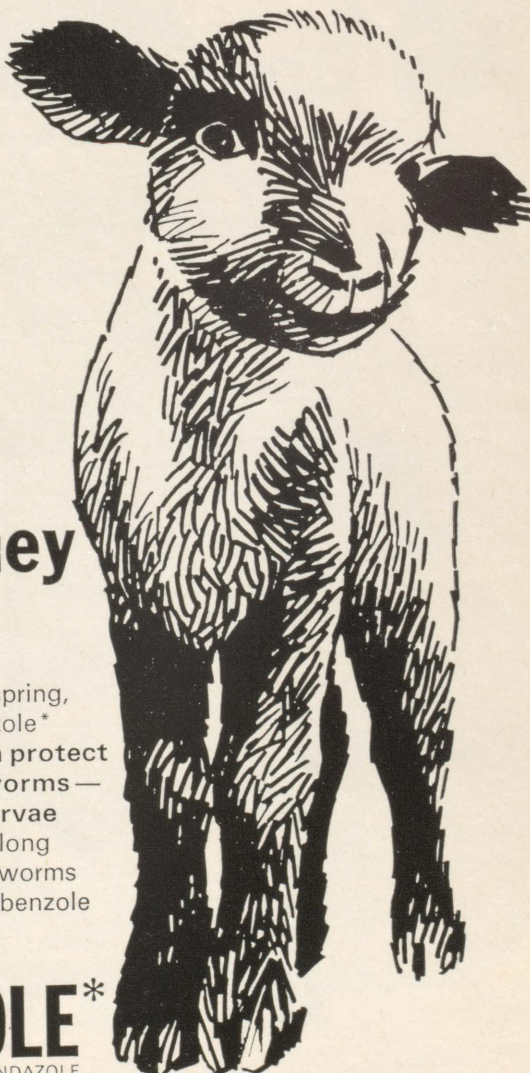
6. Government departments should seek opportunities to provide snowmobile centres at low cost. A tremendous potential for such a facility may exist in the St. Scholastique jet port area. Snowmobile centres should include adequate trailer parking
7. Those who allow young children to operate snowmobiles should be held criminally responsible in case of accident.
8. Insurance regulations — property damage and public liability — should be obligatory for all snowmobiles in operation.

In conclusion, if one concedes that most of the accidents resulting in injury or death could have

been avoided, then surely the good effects on the many of the new freedom in winter must be a major gain. The snowmobile enthusiast has so much to gain that he must do all in his power to prevent the frictions that are threatening his sport with being hemmed in by restriction — most of which would be quite unnecessary if reasonable people accepted their responsibilities.

Users must realize that damage to property is as criminal as it is unnecessary. Manufacturers must consider the hazards to users and build in all the safety they can. Both serious enthusiasts and manufacturers have a stake in promoting better relations with their critics who might not be too difficult to placate if the right moves are made without delay.

Prof. J. D. MacArthur,
Dept. of Woodlot Management.



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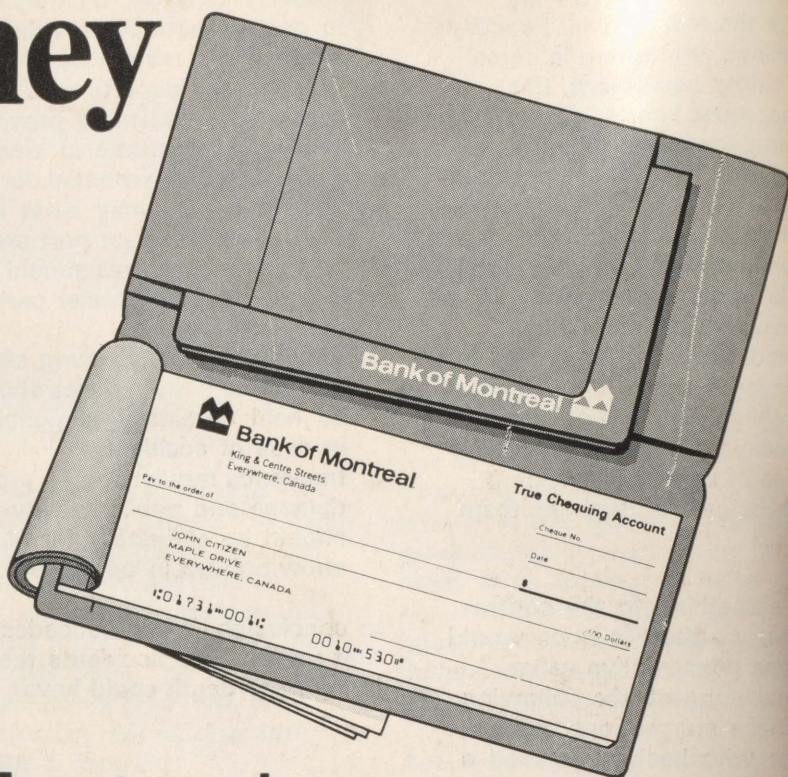
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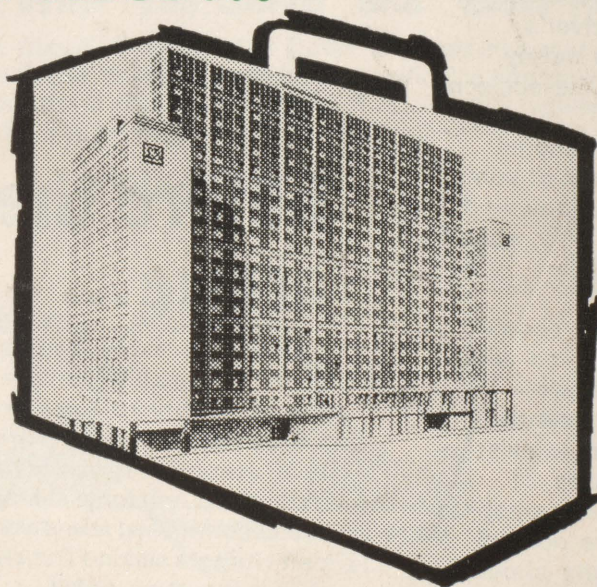


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